

An Essay  
on  
Pneumonia

Respectfully Submitted to the  
Faculty  
of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of  
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By  
William B Wilcox  
of  
Pennsylvania

## Pneumonia

Or inflammation of the paranchyma  
of the lungs in which all textures  
are more or less involved.

This disease is usually divided  
into three principal stages

viz. 1. Congestion, 2. inflammation, and,  
3. that of suppuration.

In the first or congestive stage serum  
or blood of a dark red color  
occupies the substance of the lung  
which if pressed upon causes  
crepitatio: being produced by the  
air passing through this fluid  
which is heavier and less elastic than  
in a healthy lung. In this stage  
by auscultation we hear a peculiar  
sound as of the rumpling of fine

parchment at the commencement of the disease it may be confined to a small portion of the chest. Should crepitum become extended there is danger of the disease passing into the second stage in which case crepitum ceases first at the point first attacked if disease terminates by resolution the murmur reappears at the part where it first ceased.

In the second or stage of inflammation the lung readily sinks in water if cut into looks red has a variegated appearance the spongy character is gone it has acquired the consistence and weight of liver which it much resembles and

on this account is said to be  
hepatized a reddish fluid oozes out  
of it if pressed upon it is now impervious  
to air and has no crepitation does  
not collapse when exposed to the  
air. In this stage a puffing sound  
is usually heard (by the use of stethoscope  
or on applying the ear to the chest)  
caused by the air rushing through  
the larger bronchi. The voice of the Patient  
seems to descend into the cavity

In the third or stage of suppuration  
the lung preserves the same degree of  
hardness has a granular appearance pus  
appears in small detached yellow points  
which with the substance of the lung  
forms an ash-gray color the texture is  
more friable.

more friable. If the air cells are broken up the cavity soon fills with pus we may sometimes find in the centre of the lung a number of lobules in a state of hepatisation whilst the surrounding ones are perfectly sound. In the inflamed portion of the lung the lining membrane of the bronchi is usually involved which gives it a very red appearance. A gurgling noise is sometimes heard occasioned by the cavities which have been formed in the lung being filled with pus of a grayish color decomposition of the lung may be going on and pus may exist where auscultation does not reveal the fact in which

case the part diseased was undoubtably small or in the centre of the lung respiration being carried on by the healthy portion

One or both lungs may be affected by this disease if but one more frequently the right and the disease usually commences in the lower lobes

The first or congestive stage usually lasts from twelve hours to two or three days before inflammation is completed; this is the second stage from one to three days after which spots of purulent infiltration appear and the suppurative stage continues from three to five or six days

Pneumonia may terminate in  
effusion suppuration or gangrene  
occasionally by hemorrhage  
Effusion is the most salutary mode  
of termination for by this process  
the vesels become relieved the  
secreting process goes on thereby  
producing an increased discharge  
of mucus consequently relief  
to the patient occasionally however  
in consequence of this effusion we  
find adhesions between the lungs and  
pleura and in some cases a collection  
of water in different parts of the chest  
occasionally a flow of blood apparen-  
tly from the mouths of the exhalents  
without any rupture of the vesels  
causing the sputa to be tinged with blood

Should the inflammation happen  
to suppuration the change would  
be characterized by shiverings and  
a remission of pain

If gangrene ensues the pulse sinks  
great prostration takes place with  
much oppression attended by a  
copious fetid expectoration the  
patient has not the power of throwing  
off the matter the accumulation of  
which in the lungs produces suffocation  
This disease is usually ushered in <sup>with</sup> ~~in~~  
chilliness followed by heat during  
which there is a pressure deep in the  
chest increasing to an intense seated  
pain accompanied with extreme anxiety  
the pain is always felt in the region  
where the inflammation is seated

Should both lungs be affected the pain would extend over both sides of the chest if but one it is felt only on one side and extends with the inflammation.

The breathing is obstructed frequent superficial and is carried on with the unaffected portion of the lungs only. Should both lungs be inflamed with the abdominal muscles and the diaphragm but not by raising the throat

There is a short continuous and distressing cough dry at the commencement afterwards attended with expectoration of a viscid semi-transparent matter becoming in a short time stained more or less with blood giving

it a reddish or rusty color.  
the tenacity of this expectoration is so  
great that it will adhere to the  
vessel containing it even when this  
is turned bottom upward

The cough is aggravated by deep  
inspirations or even in an attempt  
to speak. The face is bloated and  
livid in many instances in conse-  
quence of the impure change of the  
blood in the lungs. The pulse does  
not indicate the inflammatory action  
that it does in pleurisy but is usually  
accelerated. The skin is hot and dry.  
Patients commonly lie on their backs  
males are more liable to this disease than  
females. Predisposing causes are  
a tuberculous diathesis superposed

discharges of blood.

Exciting causes atmospheric influences application of cold to the body. Violent exertions in speaking singing etc may be occasioned by mechanical or chemical irritants

In this disease we may usually infer a safe recovery if the disease be primary and occupy only a portion of a single lung occurring in a person of a good constitution in debilitated persons and in those advanced in life the recovery is more doubtful. The fatality is still greater when the whole of one lung is affected still more if both be diseased.

may be prepared for any and every emergency lest the disease by a change not anticipated may ere he is aware of it pass into a stage from which it will be impossible to produce recovery. He should moreover exercise due caution as to the regimen of the patient. During the inflammatory stage very little nourishment is required and even during convalescence much caution is requisite the patient should not be allowed to overtask his returning appetite a slight error in this respect may cause uncalled for trouble and care should nothing more serious arise from it.

The room should be well ventilated yet moderately warm

Aconite should be given in the stage of simple congestion leading to inflammation accompanied with violent inflammatory fever quicks and full pulse face red pains in the chest violent.

Bryonia is useful when there is cough attended with expectoration of viscid mucus of a brick dust color accompanied by oppression at the chest foul tongue constipation and when there is acute shooting or rheumatic pains in the pleura and pectoral muscles it is a valuable agent when the inflammation was occasioned by exposure to dry and cold weather is often the best medicine to follow Aconite when the more severe

febrile symptoms have been lowered  
by that remedy —

Belladonna when there is great  
congestion of blood to the brain bloated  
and red face lips and tongue cracked  
and dry when there is delirium and  
the disease threatens to assume a  
typhoid character. Bell should always  
be used if aconite fails to moderate  
the fever —

Gastarus Emeticus is valuable in  
promoting resolution after hepatica-  
tion has taken place should be given  
when the oppression at the chest  
laborious respiration and anxiety  
continue or increase the pulse at the  
same time becoming small soft  
and irregular

In violent pneumonia when the  
sticking pains in the chest are  
excited or aggravated by coughing  
or breathing when they are very  
violent and extend over a large  
surface when a large portion of the  
lungs is inflamed cough dry sputa  
rust colored Bronchi more or less  
inflamed Phosphorus is a valuable remedy  
In Stomachous habits where hepaticization  
has advanced to some extent and where  
Phos. and other remedies have effected  
only a degree of improvement we may  
with benefit resort to Sulphur  
Cannabis Sativa Should the inflammation  
affect the left lung principally or the  
lower part of both accompanied with  
palpitation of the heart opopanax

in the region of the sternum & a  
constant heat of the face although  
the body remains cold & ~~chill~~  
Nux Vomica is called for when a tenacious  
sanguineous expectoration is with much  
difficulty and cough raised thereby  
thereby affording momentary relief  
to the patient who complains of  
fright and a feeling of anxiety in the  
chest is uneasy and restless. Should  
bilious <sup>or goutie</sup> symptoms supervene would be  
an invaluable remedy.

Mercurius is a useful remedy should  
there be a complication of Bronchitis  
with the pneumonia and especially  
in those who are subject to mucus  
discharges or should there be profuse  
expectoration of viscid sanguinolent mucus.

Squilla should the pneumonia be  
accompanied by gastric symptoms  
or should there be a profuse expecta-  
tion of mucus from the  
commencement

Should the disease have been brought  
about by a mechanical injury Arnica  
The remedies above mentioned may be  
said to be the principal ones  
employed in the treatment of Pneumonia  
Numberless others have been used  
and in complicated cases we  
may be necessitated to call in others  
to our aid.